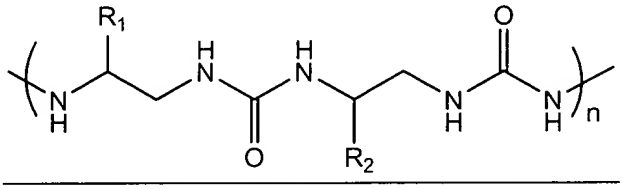
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A synthesized oligourea comprising ~~a basic-arginine-rich region of Tat.~~ the following structure:



wherein n = 3-50; and R_1 and R_2 are independently each amino acid side chains comprising the basic-arginine rich region of HIV-1 Tat protein.

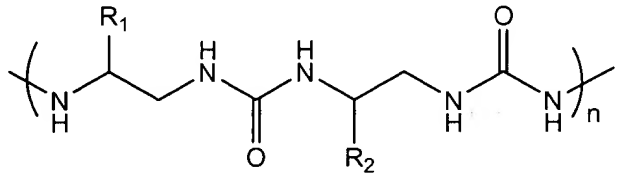
2. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting the binding of Tat protein to Tar RNA comprising introducing the oligourea of claim 1 into a cellular environment *in vitro* wherein the inhibition is sought to occur.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the cellular environment is one infected by the HIV-1.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the oligourea of claim 1 binds to the TAR RNA of HIV-1, thereby limiting the binding of Tat to TAR RNA.

5.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A composition comprising an oligourea, wherein the oligourea ~~additionally has amino acid side chains which correspond to the basic arginine rich region of the Tat protein.~~ comprises the following structure:



wherein n = 3-50; and R_1 and R_2 are independently each amino acid side chains comprising the basic-arginine rich region of HIV-1 Tat protein.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 16 ~~17~~, wherein the R_1 and R_2 amino acid side-chains correspond to SEQ ID NO: 1.

19. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 16 ~~18~~, wherein the R_1 and R_2 amino acid side-chains correspond to the SEQ ID NO: 1 with a L-Tyr amino acid at the carboxyl-terminus.

20.-28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) The oligourea of claim 1, wherein the R_1 and R_2 amino acid side chains correspond to SEQ ID NO:1.

30. (New) The oligourea of claim 1, wherein the R_1 and R_2 amino acid side chains correspond to SEQ ID NO:1 with a L-Tyr amino acid at the carboxyl-terminus.

31. (New) The oligourea of claim 1, wherein the R_1 and R_2 amino acid side chains correspond to SEQ ID NO:1 with a L-Tyr amino acid at the amino-terminus.

32. (New) The oligourea of claim 1, wherein n is 5-30.

33. (New) The oligourea of claim 1, wherein n is 8-25.

34. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein the R_1 and R_2 amino acid side chains correspond to SEQ ID NO:1 with a L-Tyr amino acid at the amino-terminus.